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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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The National Economic Plan (Volkswirtschaftsplan) is not a part of the Five-Year Plan (Fuenf-Jahr-Plan). The Five-Year Plan, which exists parallel to the National Economic Plan, is actually nothing more than a long-range economic program based on political concepts and political directives. It is formulated roughly in the same manner as the National Economic Plan, but only on the highest governmental and party levels. The time required for the formulation of the Five-Year Plan is 15 to 20 months. The main difference between it and the yearly National Economic Plan is that it consists solely of control figures and does not contain any detailed production figures and is not subject to a final accounting. Inasmuch as political goals may change, the Five-Year Plan may also be changed during its course. The fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan, often mentioned in official governmental and party publications, actually means that the fulfillment of the five annual National Economic Plans, each of which is statistically accounted for, reaches the goals as set in the Five-Year Plan. The original conception of the Five-Year Plan was that the sum of the five individual annual economic plans should meet the targets set by the Five-Year Plan; however, this theory proved to be impracticable. Experience showed that detailed planning for the whole national economy is impossible for any period extending beyond one year; therefore, so far, the control figures of the individual annual national economic plans are only compared with the control figures of the Five-Year Plan to determine discrepancies and learn by experience how to develop future Five-Year Plans.

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